

# *Drought Interagency Coordinating Group*

## *Colorado River Basin Status Update*

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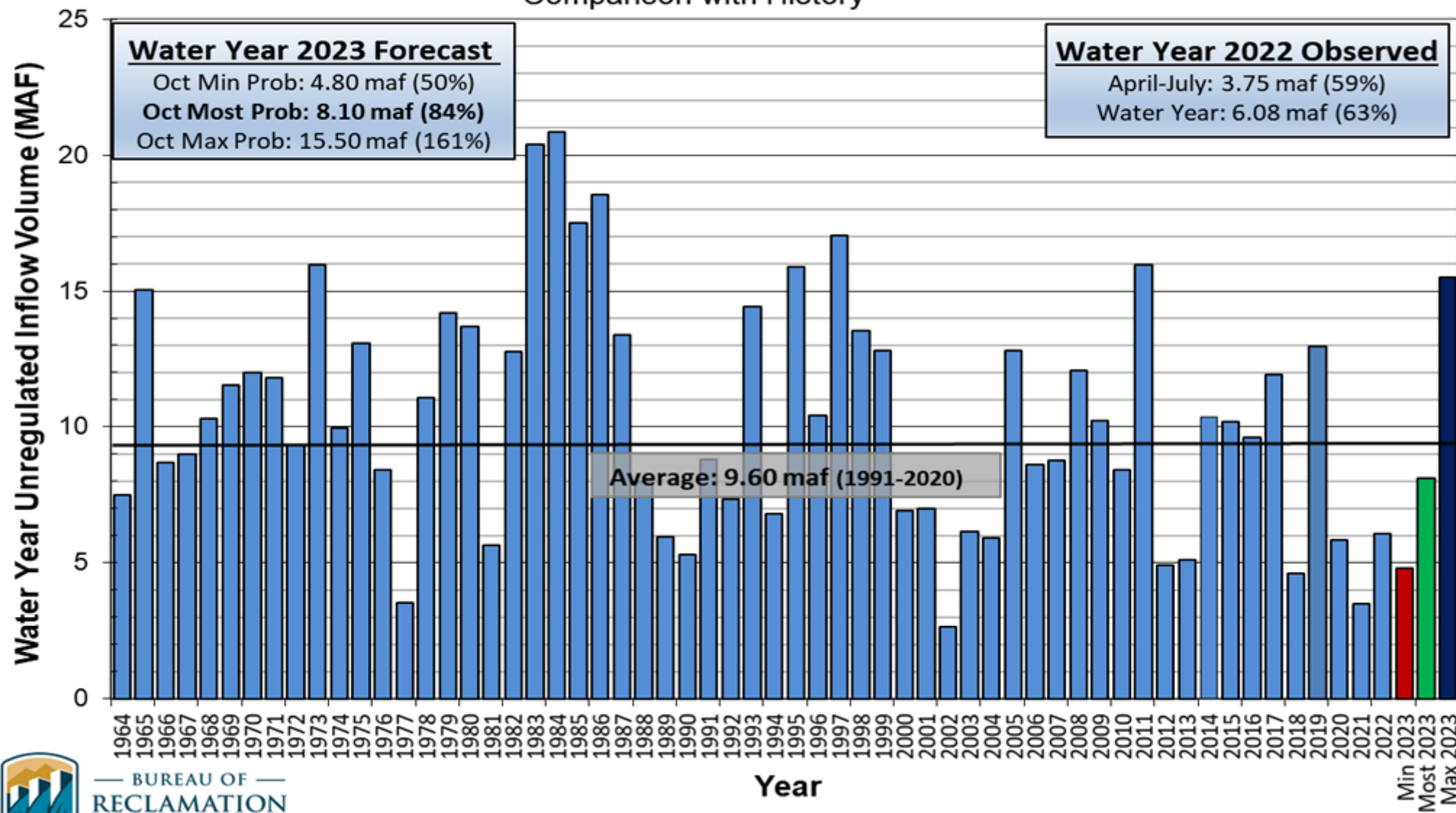
*November 10, 2022*



# Lake Powell Unregulated Inflow

## Water Year 2023 Forecast (issued October 4)

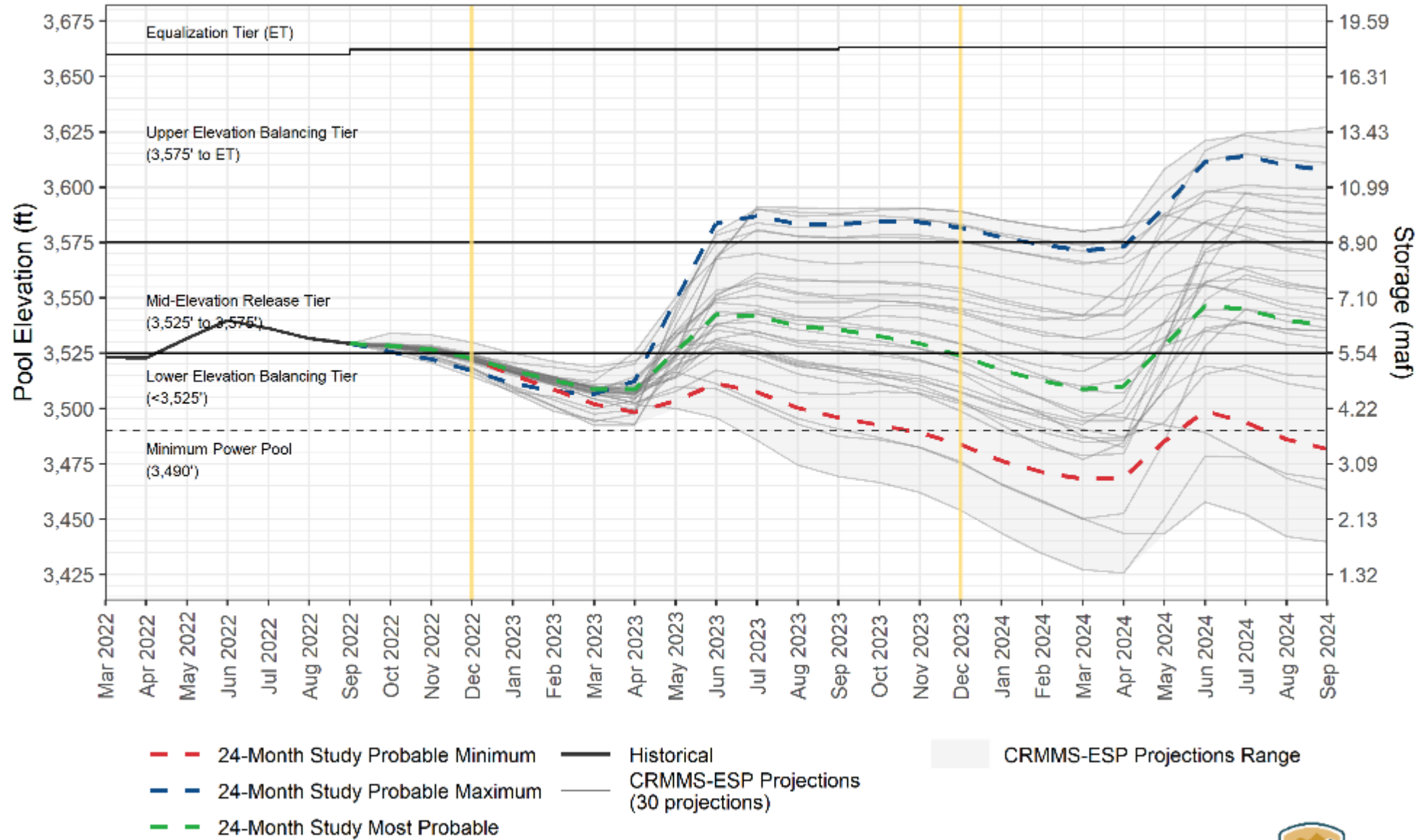
### Comparison with History



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

# Lake Powell End-of-Month Elevations<sup>1</sup>

## CRMMS Projections from October 2022



**End of CY 2022 Projections**

Most Probable:  
3,522.63 feet (23% full)

Probable Min:  
3,522.59 feet

**End of CY 2023 Projections**

Most Probable:  
3,523.87 feet (24% full)

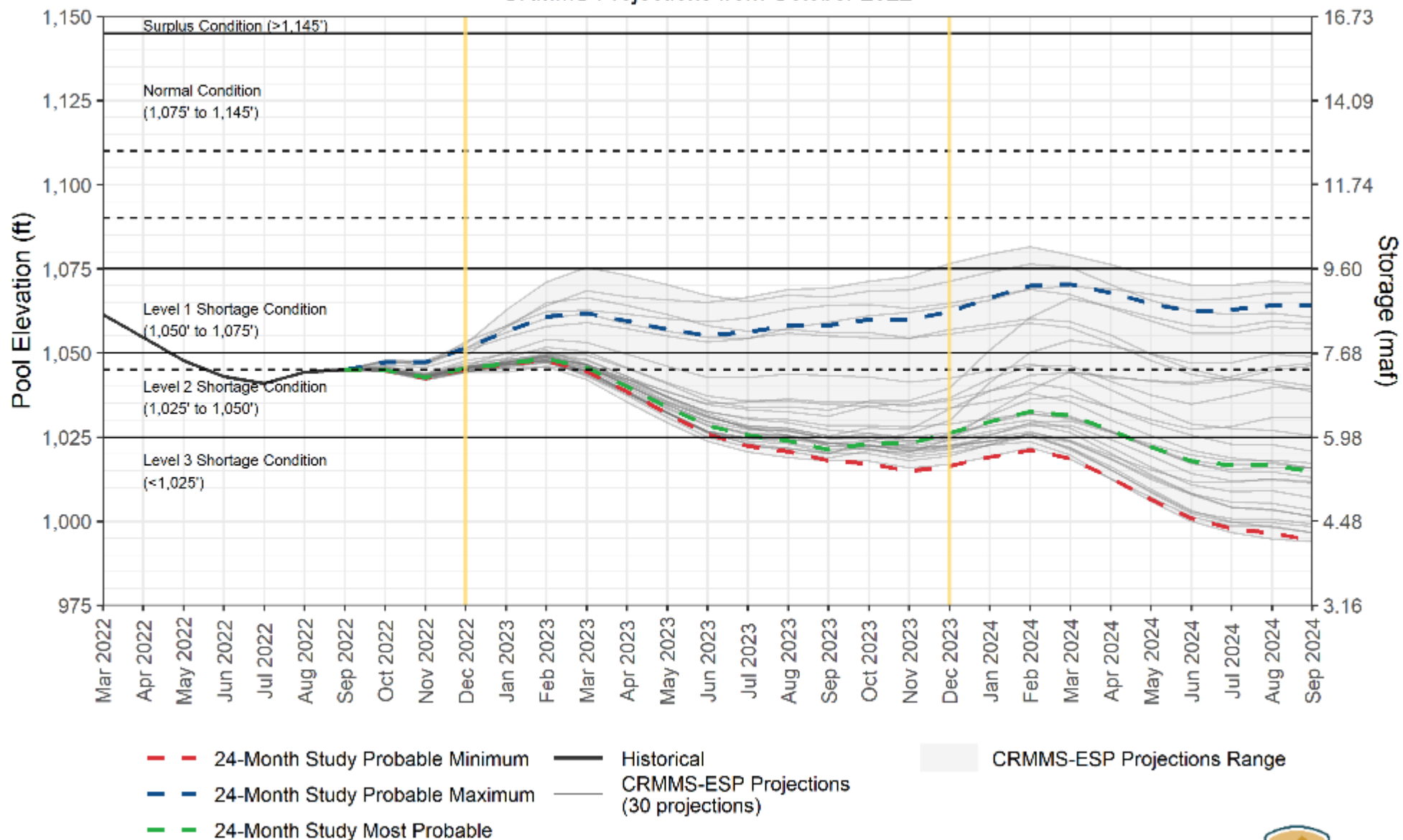
Probable Min:  
3,483.64 feet

<sup>1</sup> Projected Lake Powell end-of-month physical elevations from the latest CRMMS-ESP and 24-Month Study inflow scenarios.



# Lake Mead End-of-Month Elevations<sup>1</sup>

## CRMMS Projections from October 2022



### End of CY 2022 Projections

**Most Probable:**  
1,045.38 feet (28% full)

**Probable Min:**  
1,045.15 feet

### End of CY 2023 Projections

**Most Probable:**  
1,026.18 feet (23% full)

**Probable Min:**  
1,016.30 feet

**Lake Mead Dead Pool:**  
895 feet

<sup>1</sup> Projected Lake Mead end-of-month physical elevations from the latest CRMMS-ESP and 24-Month Study inflow scenarios.

# September Announcements from DOI

- Continue to work with Lower Basin States on developing voluntary measures and agreements
- Working with Upper Basin States to support their 5-point plan
- Making investments in drought resilience and water management from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act

\*Source: "Interior Department Announces Next Steps to Address Drought Crisis Gripping the Colorado River Basin", *U.S. Department of the Interior*, September 22, 2022. Press Release.  
Available at <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-next-steps-address-drought-crisis-gripping-colorado>



# Sept. Announcements from DOI, cont.

- Moving forward with administrative actions needed to authorize a **reduction of Glen Canyon Dam releases below 7 MAF to protect critical infrastructure**
- Preparing to take action to make additional reductions in 2023 through an administrative process to evaluate and adjust triggering elevations and/or **increasing reduction volumes pursuant to 2007 Interim Guidelines**
- Accelerating ongoing maintenance actions and studies of bypass tubes at Glen Canyon Dam
- Ensuring lower basin water use satisfy appropriate beneficial use standards, including consideration of health and safety requirements
- **Assessing how to account for system losses due to evaporation, seepage and other losses**

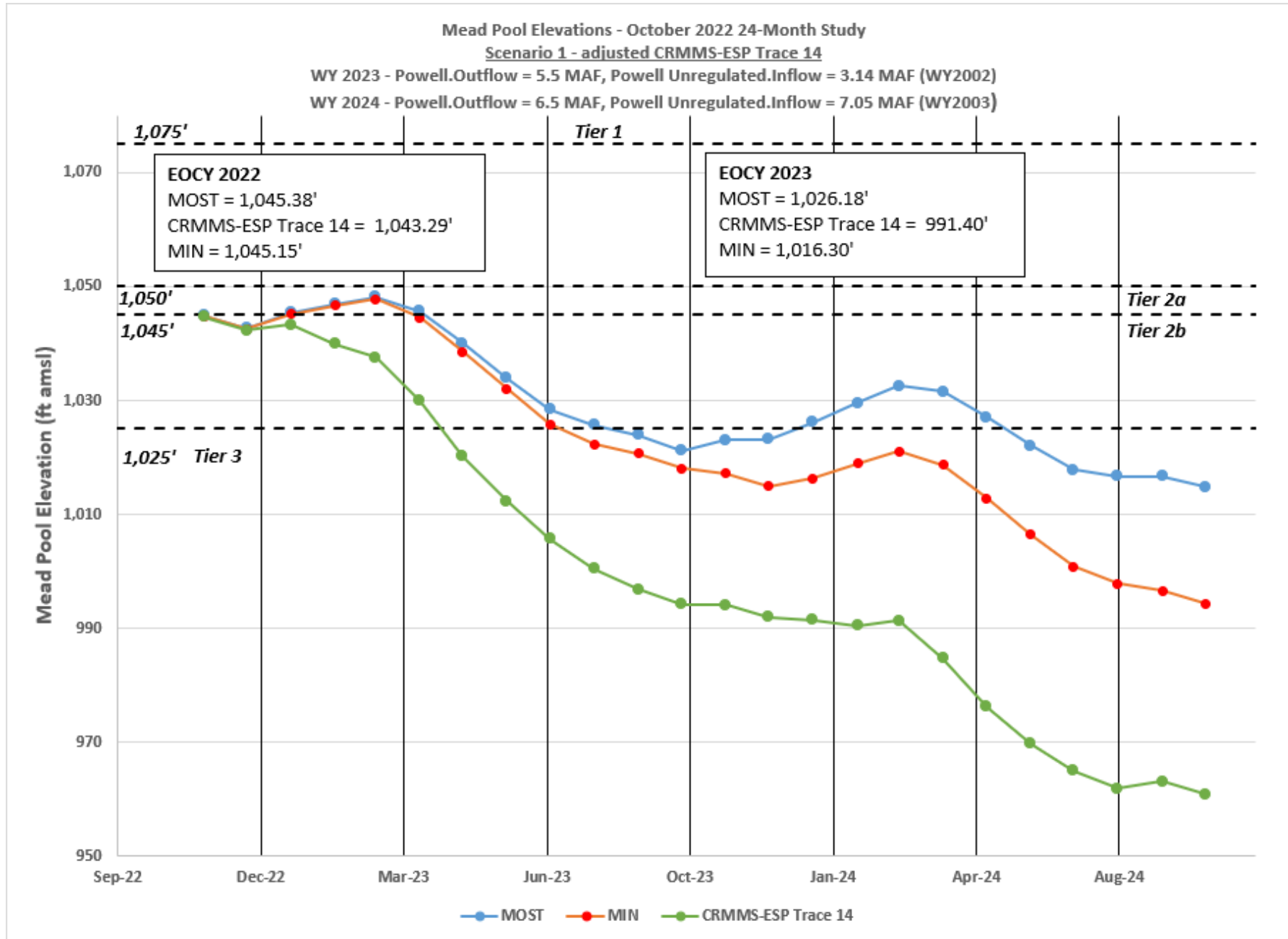
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# Modeling Forecast using 5.5 MAF Powell Release-Mead



# Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental EIS

- Builds on steps announced in August and September to reduce water consumption across the Basin.
- To ensure that Glen Canyon Dam continues to operate under its intended design, there may be a need to modify current operations and reduce downstream releases.
- To protect Hoover Dam operations, system integrity, and public health and safety, may need to modify current operations and reduce downstream releases.
- The scoping period is open through December 20, 2022.





# Supplemental EIS potential alternatives

**Framework Agreement Alternative:** A consensus-based alternative that would build on commitments and obligations as part of the 2019 Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) Authorization Act

**Reservoir Operations Modification Alternative:** Would consider how the Secretary's authority could complement a consensus-based alternative that may not sufficiently mitigate current and projected risks

**No Action:** Will describe the continued implementation of existing agreements that control operations of Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams. These include the 2007 Interim Guidelines and agreements adopted pursuant to the 2019 DCP



# Questions?

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